

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2294

On July 13, 2004, House Bill No. 2294, entitled "Relating to Fees for Administrative Costs in Traffic Cases" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This bill increases the administration fees in certain traffic cases and requires that these new, additional fees shall be deposited into the judiciary computer system special fund.

I support the general intent of this bill to provide funding for upgrading the judiciary information management system project to allow more efficient processing of documents through the judicial system. I have, however, a concern regarding this bill. The special fund already receives fees for traffic abstracts, and recently new fees for civil filings were established that are also to be deposited into the special fund.

This bill doubles certain administrative fees, thus increasing even further the fiscal burdens on Hawaii's taxpayers. If the Judiciary finds that additional funds are required for their system upgrades, then current and planned expenditure levels should be re-examined, and, if necessary, funds should be appropriated through the normal budget process, subject to other State priorities and the general fund expenditure ceiling.

Therefore, I allowed House Bill No. 2294 to become law as Act 231, effective July 14, 2004, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE